THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) There are two meteorological sub-division, namely, West Rajasthan and East Rajasthan in the state of Rajasthan. As per India meteorological Department, this year Monsoon rainfall was deficient in west Rajasthan while it was normal in East Rajasthan. Normal area under Kharif crops is about 101 lakh hectares. This year area coverage under Kharif crops is 87.4 lakh hectares which is about 87 percent of Normal area.

(b) The Government of Rajasthan did not implement the scheme Comprehensive insurance scheme (CCIS) for Kharif 1999 season.

Agriculture and Rural Development in Kutch

302. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a study report on agriculture and rural development strategies for Kutch was submitted to the Central as well as the State Governments;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the farmers of coastal areas and Kutch district are facing problem of steep decline in ground water;

(c) if so, the details of the action taken by Government on the study report;

(d) whether it is a fact that the farmers are migrating, leaving their agricultural land, to other places; and

(e) the action taken by Government on the report as well as to stop the migration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) The Government of Gujarat has reported that a report prepared by Dr. R.K. Sivanappan has been received by the State Government. No report has been received in the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation.

(b) The coastal belt of Kutch extends over 360 Kms. along the Gulf of Kutch in the Arabian Sea. The entire Kutch district is classified as arid region from agriculture point of view. As a result of low rainfall and over-extraction of ground-water the water table is considerably lowered, causing ingress of saline water in the coastal areas of Kutch district.

(c) In order to tackle the problem of salinity ingress in Kutch district, Government of Gujarat has appointed a High Level Committee (HLC-II) under the chairmanship of Shri K. Shivraj. The Committee studied the problems in detail and accordingly suggested different remedial measures at a cost of Rs. 186 crores (Present cost Rs. 515 crores). This Committee suggested the following works for prevention of salinity.

1.	Checkdam	740	Nos.
2.	Bandhyaras	40	"
3.	Tidal Regulators	15	"
4.	Recharge tanks	25	"
5.	Recharge wells	150	"
6.	Spreading channels	66	Kms.
7.	Connecting channels	100	"
8.	Nalla plugs	20000	Nos.
9.	Coastal Bunds	10000	ha.

(d) and (e) Kutch is a Drought Prone Area. Temporary migration is therefore common every year as the Maldharis with their sheep, goats and other animals migrate in search of fodder and pasture for their livestock during the time of scarcity and return after rainfall.

Apart from the action being taken on the recommendations of the High Level Committee referred to in part (c) above, the State Government has taken steps to promote drip irrigation in the area so that 30 to 40% of water used in irrigation can be saved.

Emergency Measures to Avert Losses in Orissa Cyclone

303. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the damage caused by the devastating super cyclone that hit the coastal areas of Orissa and West Bengal on 29th October, 1999;

(b) the details of the financial assistance extended by the Union Government for the relief and rehabilitation measures;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) had informed the Orissa and West Bengal States well in advance about the moving of the cyclone towards the coastal areas of these States; and

(d) if so, the details and what emergency measures were taken by these State Government to avert the losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) The details of damage caused by the Super Cyclone of 29.10.1999 in the States of Orissa and West Bengal, as intimated by the two State Governments, are as under: